PP0823

FRENTE REVOLUCIONARIA DE TIMOR-LESTE INDEPENDENTE

(REVOLUTIONARY FRONT FOR AN INDEPENDENT EAST TIMOR)

FRETILIN

Lisboa, June 29, 1987

Dear friends,

last week I met with Ramos Horta and he asked me to pass on to you some information on the 1987-meeting of the UN Decolonization Committee. The meeting will be held in the 1rst or 2nd week of August in New York. (The exact date will be announced mid-July.)

Concerning accomodation: since Horta will be staying in Washington and not in New York, reservations for accomodation will have to be arranged directly with hotels, pensions or through acquaintances from last year.

It is of great importance that as many organizations as possible will attend the meeting. Apart from solidarity groups, politicians (e.g. from the Netherlands to speak on the issue of the 4 East Timorese students) and academics should also try to attend the meeting.

Requests for participation should be submitted not later than 25 July. Copies of these requests should be send to: Ramos Horta, Embassy of Mozambique to the US, 1990 M Street, NW, Suite 570, Washington DC 20036. This is important, since last year some requests "never reached" the UN.

These requests could contain the following sentence: "I should like to be granted a hearing when the special committee on decolonization discuss the question of East Timor".

For the meeting participants are expected to bring 40 copies of their speech. In fact, participants will have to prepare two separate speeches: one consisting of some 7 to 8 pages for distribution and one of 3 pages double-space at the most which summarizes the longer one to be read out at the meeting.

Some of the topics that should be dealt with are: a detailed account on Operasi Kikis (the military situation, the resistance, the consequences for the civilian population); the militarization of civil life; elections in Indonesia in general and in Timor in particular.

Other priority subjects according to Horta are:

* the Indonesian general attitude towards the Timor problem: is there any change or development or prospect for change in the near future?
* have the costs of war affected the Indonesian population as a whole, to what extent, in which ways is it visible?
* is Indonesia serious in its negotiations with the Secretary-General or is it waiting for the issue to die by itself?
* will the Suharto regime outlast all of us or are there prospects for a Philippine situation in the next 3 to 4 years?
* transmigration and population control: of importance here is not so much 'classical transmigration' as well as the massive influx of (Javanese/Indonesian) bureaucrats.

Other topics are possible of course. For instance, the Swedish committee could send someone to speak on the public opinion and the role of the Swedish press concerning arms supplies.

In August, in Geneva the Human Rights Commission of the UN also will have a meeting. It is very important that you ask NGOs and church organizations to go there and speak on the Timor issue.

Finally, Horta would like to stress that if there is going to be an informal discussion like last year, this should be better organized and future plans will have to be more concrete.

This is it. You can reach Horta by telephone in Washington: 202-2937146.

On behalf of Ramos Horta,

Mariel Otten

Letters should be adressed to:

The Secretary
Special Committee on Decolonization
38th Floor
United Nations Secretariat Building
New York New York 10017 USA